

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) A status setting method according to claim 10, wherein the user status and a user attribute defining a configurable user statuses are correlative registered in the status table.

3. (Previously Presented) A status setting method according to claim 10, wherein a common table in which prescribed user statuses are registered is previously prepared, and said common table is obtained if no status table is prepared for a virtual space in which user terminals participate, and a user status on said virtual space is set for the virtual space based on an obtained common table.

4. (Previously Presented) A status setting method according to claim 10, wherein setting of a user status by a user is accepted.

5. (Previously Presented) A status setting method according to claim 10, wherein said user terminal can display a user status with a symbol, the user status and the symbol are correlative registered in a status table, and a status of another user sharing a virtual space is displayed with a symbol relating to the user status.

6. (Previously Presented) A status setting method according to claim 10, wherein a list of user statuses registered in an obtained status table is displayed independently for each virtual space in which user terminals participate, selection of any user statuses on the list is accepted for each virtual space, and a user status is set for each virtual space.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a status setting module for executing the method set forth in ~~any of claims 2 to 6 or claim~~ 10.

8. (Currently Amended) A transmission medium transmitting a status setting module for executing the method set forth in ~~any of claims 2 to claim 6 or claim~~ 10.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A user-status setting method in which a user terminal can send, receive, and display a user status and a character message on at least one virtual space shared on a network, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a list of configurable user statuses registered for each virtual space in which a user participates;

reading out the user-status-selection table of [[a]]each virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in [[the]]each virtual space;

displaying on the user terminal the list of the selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table;

setting a user status which was selected from the list of selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space in which the user has participated;

sending to each virtual space the set user status;

receiving from each virtual space the set user status; and

displaying the set user status for each virtual space.

11. (Currently Amended) A status setting system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals which send and receive user statuses and character messages on at least one virtual space shared on a network;

storing means for storing a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a plurality of configurable user statuses registered for each virtual space in which a user participates;

obtaining means for reading out the user-status-selection table of [[a]]each virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in [[the]]each virtual space;

display means for displaying on the user terminal a list of the selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table;

setting means for setting a user status which was selected from the list of selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space in which the user has participated;

sending means for sending to each virtual space the set user status; and

receiving means for receiving from each virtual space the set user status,
wherein the display means displays the set user status for each virtual space.

12. (Currently Amended) A status setting system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals which send and receive user statuses and character messages on at least one virtual space shared on a network;

a storage unit which stores a plurality of user-status-selection tables including a plurality of configurable user statuses registered for each virtual space in which a user participates;

an obtaining unit which reads out the user-status-selection table of a virtual space in which a user terminal participates when the user terminal has participated in [[the]]each virtual space;

a display which displays on the user terminal a list of the selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space based on the read-out user-status-selection table;

a setting unit which sets a user status which was selected from the list of selectable user statuses for [[the]]each virtual space in which the user has participated;

a communication unit which sends to each virtual space the set user status, and which receives from each virtual space the set user status,

wherein the display displays the set user status for each virtual space.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 12, wherein the user status includes a string of characters entered by the user.